

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A radio communication system comprising a primary station and a plurality of secondary stations, the system having a communication channel between the primary station and a secondary station, one of the primary and secondary stations ~~(the transmitting station)~~ having means for transmitting power control commands to the other station ~~(the receiving station)~~ to instruct it to adjust its output transmission power in steps, wherein the receiving station has combining means for processing a plurality of power control commands to determine whether to adjust its output power as a function of a requested step size included in the power control commands and a minimum step size implemented by the other station.

2. (Currently Amended) A primary station for use in a radio communication system having a communication channel between the primary station and a secondary station, the primary station having means for adjusting its output transmission power in steps in response to power control commands transmitted by the secondary station, wherein combining means are provided for processing a plurality of power control commands to determine whether to adjust its output power as a function of a requested step size included in the power control commands and a minimum step size implemented by the primary station.

3. (Currently Amended) A secondary station for use in a radio communication system having a communication channel between the secondary station and a primary station, the secondary station having means for adjusting its transmission power in steps in response to power control commands transmitted by the primary station, wherein combining means are provided for processing a plurality of power control commands to determine whether to adjust its output power as a function of a required step size included in the power control commands and a minimum available step size

implemented by the secondary station.

4. (Currently Amended) A The secondary station as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterised in that means are provided further~~ comprising means for selecting one of a plurality of available power control step sizes in response to commands issued by the primary station, and ~~in that wherein~~ the combining means are operative if the required step size is less than ~~its~~ the minimum available step size.

5. (Currently Amended) A The secondary station as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterised in that means are provided further~~ comprising means for processing a group of power control commands together, ~~the~~ a size of the group being determined by the minimum available step size and the required step size.

6. (Currently Amended) A The secondary station as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the size of the group is equal to the ratio between the minimum available step size and the required step size.

7. (Currently Amended) A The secondary station as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the combining means are operative in response to commands issued by the primary station to process a group of power control commands together and in that the a size of the group is predetermined.

8. (Currently Amended) A The secondary station as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the power control step size is predetermined.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a radio communication system comprising a primary station and a plurality of secondary stations, the system having a communication channel between the primary station and a secondary station, the method comprising ~~one of the primary and secondary stations (the transmitting station)~~ the acts of:

transmitting power control commands by a transmitting station ~~to the other station (the a receiving station) station~~ to instruct it to adjust its power in steps, ~~wherein the receiving station~~

processes and

processing by the receiving station a plurality of power control commands to determine whether to adjust its output transmission power as a function of a required step size included in the power control commands and a minimum available step size implemented by the secondary station.

10. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 9, characterised by further comprising the acts of:

the transmitting station instructing the receiving station to use a particular power control step size, and

by the receiving station combining power control commands if the required step size is less than the minimum available step size.

11. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 10, characterised further comprising the acts of:

by the receiving station processing a group of power control commands together, and

determining the size of the group depending on the minimum

available step size and the required step size.

12. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterised by wherein~~ the size of the group being equal to the ratio between the minimum available step size and the required step size.

13. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterised further comprising the act of~~ by the receiving station processing a group of power control commands together in response to commands issued by the transmitting station and by the size of the group being predetermined.

14. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterised by wherein~~ the power control step size ~~being is~~ predetermined.

15. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 14 ~~characterised by transmissions wherein the~~ transmitting act on the communication channel ~~taking~~ takes place in

frames, and ~~by wherein~~ the groups of power control commands ~~having~~ have predetermined positions with respect to the ~~a~~ start of each frame.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as claimed in claim 15, characterised by ~~wherein~~ the size of the group being ~~is~~ exactly divisible into the number of power control commands transmitted in a frame.

17. (New) The radio communication system of claim 1, wherein the combining means processes a group of commands having a size being equal to a ratio between the minimum step size and the requested step size.

18. (New) The primary station of claim 2, wherein the combining means processes a group of commands having a size being equal to a ratio between the minimum step size and the requested step size.

19. (New) The secondary station of claim 3, wherein the

combining means processes a group of commands having a size being equal to a ratio between the minimum available step size and the required step size.

20.(New) The method of claim 9, wherein the processing act processes a group of commands having a size being equal to a ratio between the minimum available step size and the required step size.